

DOCUMENT RESUME

04015 - [B3014288]

[Comments on Forty-Two Proposed Deferrals of Budget Authority Contained in the President's Second Special Message for Fiscal Year 1978]. OGC-78-1; B-115398. October 21, 1977. 1 pp. + enclosure (5 pp.).

Report to the Congress; by Paul G. Dembling, Acting Comptroller General.

Contact: Office of the General Counsel.

Budget Function: Miscellaneous: Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (1005).

Organization Concerned: Department of the Interior; Department of the Treasury; Department of Agriculture; Department of Commerce; Department of Defense; Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; Department of Justice; Department of Transportation; Energy Research and Development Administration; Federal Aviation Administration; Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States.

Congressional Relevance: Congress.

Authority: Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

The President's second special message to Congress for fiscal year 1978 contained 42 deferral proposals affecting a total of \$1,480,612,000 in budget authority. Information provided in the deferral proposals for the following agencies is correct, and the actions being proposed in these cases have been clearly and accurately stated: the Department of Agriculture; the Department of Commerce; the Department of Defense; the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare; the Department of the Interior; the Department of Justice; the Department of the Treasury; the General Services Administration; the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission; the Interstate Commerce Commission; the U.S. Information Agency; and the United States Railway Association. Findings/Conclusions: The deferral message states that the expiration date for all of the deferred multiple-year budget authority for the U.S. Coast Guard is September 30, 1980, although the expiration date for \$47,000 of the deferred funds is September 30, 1979. Review of the deferral for the operating expenses of the Plenum Fill Experiment under the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA) established that the amount deferred is \$2.3 million instead of the \$1.5 million stated in the message. The deferral message stated that the effects of the deferral of the budget authority for ERDA's Intense Neutron Source Facility plant and capital equipment on total project costs and project completion date could not be determined pending resolution of the project funding. This deferral could result in a delay of from 6 to 9 months and an increase in the total program cost of about \$1 million. (SC)

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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

IN REPLY REFER TO: B-115398

Oct. 21, 1977

To the President of the Senate and the
Speaker of the House of Representatives

On October 3, 1977, we received copies of the President's second special message for fiscal year 1977 that was transmitted to the Congress pursuant to the Impoundment Control Act of 1974. The special message includes 42 deferral proposals affecting a total of \$1,480,612,000 in budget authority.

Our comments on the information submitted in the special message of October 3, 1977, are enclosed.

Paul G. Hankins
Acting Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosure

OGC -78-1

GAO COMMENTS ON THE PRESIDENT'S SECOND
SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1978

Except as noted below, we conclude that the information provided in the new deferral proposals is correct and that the actions being proposed have been clearly and accurately stated.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- D78-1 Foreign Agricultural Service
Salaries and Expenses
Special Foreign Currency Program
12X2901
- D78-2 Agricultural Stabilization and
Conservation Service
Commodity Credit Corporation
Administrative Expense, 1978
1284336
- D78-3 Forest Service
Expenses, Brush Disposal
12X5206
- D78-4 Forest Service
Licensee Programs
12X5214

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- D78-5 Economic Development Administration
Local Public Works Program
137/92052
- D78-6 Economic Development Administration
Financial and Technical Assistance
13X1210
- D78-7 National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
Operations, Research and Facilities
13X1450

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

D78-26 Office of the Secretary
Antirecession Financial Assistance
Fund
207/80108

D78-27 Office of the Secretary
State and Local Government Fiscal
Assistance Trust Fund
20X8111

D78-28 Office of the Secretary
State and Local Government Fiscal
Assistance Trust Fund
20X8111

D78-29 Bureau of the Mint
Construction of Mint Facilities
20X1617

ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
ADMINISTRATION

D78-30 Operating expenses
(Gas Cooled Reactors)
89X0100

D78-31 Operating Expenses
(Plenum Fill Experiment)

Our review of the above deferral establishes that the amount deferred is \$2.3 million instead of the \$1.5 million stated in the message.

D78-32 Plant and Capital Equipment
(Clean Boiler Fuel from Coal Project)
89X0103

D78-33 Plant and Capital Equipment
(Fusion Material Test Facility)
89X0103

D78-34 Plant and Capital Equipment
(Intense Neutron Source Facility)
89X0103

The above deferral message states that the effects of the deferral on total project costs and the project completion date cannot be determined pending resolution of the project

funding. The project engineer and officials at the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory told us that the deferral could result in a delay of about 6 to 9 months and an increase in the total program cost of about \$1 million.

D78-35 Plant and Capital Equipment
(Intersecting Storage Ring Accelerator)
89X0103

D78-36 Plant and Capital Equipment
(Molten Salt Breeder Reactor Project)
89X0103

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

D78-37 Rare Silver Dollar Program
47X0701

D78-38 Federal Preparedness Agency
State and Local Preparedness
47X0618

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION

D78-39 Payment of Vietnam Prisoner of
War Claims
79X0104

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION

D78-40 Directed Rail Service
30X0103

U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY

D78-41 Salaries and Expenses
(Special Foreign Currency Program)
67X0103

UNITED STATES RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

D78-42 Payments for Purchase of Conrail
Securities
98X0111